

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
SSM-03 /091 W
-----041649Z 053634 /45

P R 041500Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5845
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR UR US XF PLO
SUBJ: PRAVDA ARTICLE ON ME ISSUES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 3804, (B) CAIRO 4896 (NOTAL), (C) MOSCOW 974
(NOTAL), (D) MOSCOW 3949, (E) MOSCOW 4132, (F) 76 MOSCOW
20107.

BEGIN SUMMARY; APRIL 2 PRAVDA ARTICLE BY YU. GLUKHOV
DESCRIBES ALLEGEDLY SOVIET "FLEXIBLE" POSITION WITH REGARD
TO ME, EMPHASIZES VALUE OF U.S.-SOVIET COOPERATION AS
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GENEVA CO-CHAIRMAN AND FILLS IN A FEW DETAILS ON BREZHNEV'S
MARCH 21 EXPOSITION OF SOVIET ME POLICY. PALESTINIAN
PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA IS--AS IN BREZHNEV SPEECH--NOT
MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH PASSING REFERENCE IS MADE TO SOVIET
PROPOSAL OF OCT 2, 1976, WHICH DID REFER TO PLO PARTICIPATION
"FROM VERY BEGINNING." END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO DRAW TO ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS LENGTHY APRIL 2 PRAVDA ARTICLE ON ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS BY YU. GLUKHOV. ASSUME DEPT HAS FBIS TEXT.

2. GLUKHOV CLEARLY BASES HIS ARTICLE ON BREZHNEV'S MARCH 21 TUC SPEECH WHICH CONTAINED M.E. POLICY STATEMENT (REF A), EVEN TO POINT OF REPEATING CERTAIN DELICATE POINTS WORD FOR WORD. HE DOES, HOWEVER, ADD A FEW POINTS OF CLARIFICATION AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, HE EMPHASIZES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ME EXCHANGE DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND GHE GENERAL VALUE OF U.S.-SOVIET ME COOPERATION. AT SAME TIME, HE WARNS AGAINST "SOME" (READ U.S.) WHO WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFORM GENEVA INTO A SCREEN FOR "SEPARATE DEALS" WHICH ACT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

3. ANOTHER POINT OF EMPHASIS IN ARTICLE IS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "PARTIAL STEPS" POLICY (AGAIN READ "OF U.S.") AIMED AT SEPARATE DEALS BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIS AND ISRAEL, AND RECENT SOVIET POLICY PROPOSALS--DESCRIBED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE AS A "STAGE BY STAGE APPROACH." THE DIFFERENCE, GLUKHOV SAYS, LIES IN SOVIET INSISTENCE ON STRICT PERIODS TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SUCH COMPONENTS OF THE SETTLEMENT AS THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS.

4. GLUKHOV CRITICIZES IDEA OF "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS" SAYING THAT IT IS BASED ON ALLON PLAN AND REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO RETAIN ARAB TERRITORY AND AN ISRAELI TROOP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCE IN AREA BEHIND SO-CALLED "FORWARD BOUNDARIES."

5. ON ISSUE OF FREE TRANSIT IN ME SEA LANES, GLUKHOV ADDS A GLOSS ON BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT "SOVIET PROPOSAL IN NO WAY ENCROACHES UPON SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF ANY GOVERNMENT." WE NOTE THAT THIS ANSWERS AL-AHRAM CRITICISM OF THIS PORTION OF BREZHNEV SPEECH (REF B).

6. FINAL POINT WORTH OF NOTE IS GLUKHOV'S FAILURE TO DIRECTLY TREAT QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE (NOR DID BREZHNEV IN HIS MARCH 21 SPEECH). ALTHOUGH GLUKHOV CITES SOVIET PROPOSALS OF OCT 2, 1976, WHICH DID REFER TO PLO PARTICIPATION" FROM VERY BEGINNING," LAUDS GROWING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF PLO, AND REPEATS BREZHNEV JAN 18 TULA SPEECH LINE ON PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO STATEHOOD (REF C), HE SAYS NOTHING DIRECT ABOUT PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA.

7. COMMENT. SOVIET PUBLIC POSTURE ON ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN

PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN FAIRLY CONSISTENT SINCE IT WAS
FIRST FORMULATED, AND SOVIET ME EXPERT YE. M. PRIMAKOV
DENIED RECENTLY THAT LACK OF REFERENCE TO THIS ISSUE IN
BREZHNEV MARCH 21 SPEECH INDICATED ANY CHANGE IN THAT
POLICY (REF D). ON OTHER HAND, IN PRIVATE, SOVIETS
HAVE JUST AS CONSISTENTLY INDICATED THAT MOSCOW COULD LIVE
WITH ANY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE FORM OF PARTICIPATION
WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS AND THE
PLO (REF E AND F). WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF SOVIET
"FLEXIBILITY" WHICH GOES BEYOND THIS WILLINGNESS TO
COUNTENANCE VARIOUS FORMS OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TEXT, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW04487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770116-1000
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770491/aaaadbly.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 843501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 3804, 77 CAIRO 4896, 77 MOSCOW 974
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2908287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA ARTICLE ON ME ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XF, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/843501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009